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PH : 91-40-24553602.

India.

Date : September 8, 2004

Application no.	Filing date	Inventor
10 / 042,433	Jan, 10th 2002	Gopinath.B.

To,  
The Commissioner for Patents,  
USPTO.

FAX NO : 703-872-9306.

Dear Sir,

This is in response to your office communication of August 26, 2004 as seen in the PAIR system.

I am enclosing the amendment to the Claims incorporating the missing text mentioned in your letter. I am giving below the details of the pending claims.

According to your office action letter dated July 27, only claim numbers 11 to 14 are pending. I am giving the text only for these claims.

Claim number 11 This is a generic claim presented in my amendment letter dated April 28, 2004. There is no change in this claim. I am giving the status " previously presented " to this claim. The text is clean.

Claim number 12 This claim refers to Multi knife cutting device, Rotary action which I have decided to delete in my letter of August 14, 2004. The status is " withdrawn " with the text marked for deletion.

Claim number 13 This refers to Multi knife cutting device, Independent knife movement , which has also been deleted on August 14, 2004. The status is "withdrawn " with the text duly marked.

Claim number 14 This refers to multi knife cutting device, Inclined cutting action described in pages 6 to 9 of the clean version of the specification dated August 14/15, 2004.

This claim was first submitted on April 28, 2004. This claim has been split into two claims 14 and 15 on August 14 to bring in clarity and focus on the novel features of the only embodiment of the invention now left. There are minor amendments in claim 14 which are duly marked. The status is " currently amended ".

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Claim number 15. The second half of claim number 14 is deleted and converted in to claim number 15. This claim is dependent on claim 14 and highlights the novel features of the invention. The status is "new" and the text is not marked.

MPEP section 714 states "A rewritten claim must be in clean form without markings to indicate the changes" with the status added after the claim number. It also says if the same claim number is used, to submit a marked version of the claim on a separate page. In the amendment to the claims I am giving the rewritten claim 14, in clean version and giving the marked version of claim 14 on a separate page. I hope this is in order.

There is no new matter added to the claims now except the text of the claims 12 and 13 which has been asked for.

Yours sincerely,



B. Gopinath.

Enclosure : Amendment to the Claims dated September 8, 2004. - 4 pages

I am also sending a copy by Post.

Application no. 10 / 042,433, Multi knife cutting device.

Amendments to claims. August 14, 2004. Current amendment : September 8 , 2004.

5 1 Claim :

Claims 1 to 6 , ( Cancelled).

Claims 7 to 10, ( Cancelled.)

11. ( Previously presented )

A Multi knife cutting device comprising :

10 a cutting means having multiple knives;

a base cum guide member with designated space for vegetables and slots for locating the cutting means;

a means for mounting the cutting means on the said base cum guide;

the guides on either side of the slots in the base cum guide for positive support of the cutting

15 means ;

the said slots in the base cum guide enabling the cutting means to travel past the vegetables for clean cut;

the said vegetable space having structural support to stop vegetable sliding;

location of vegetables close to fulcrum of cutting means for minimizing cutting loads.

20 12. ( Withdrawn )

~~The multi knife cutting device of claim 11 comprising :~~

~~the cutting means having six rotary knives connected by a fulcrum bolt and spacers to five handles;~~

~~the base cum guide member further comprising a rectangular board with grooves on top surface~~

25 ~~for guiding knives, a guide with slots fitted upright to one end of the board, the slots in~~

~~alignment with the grooves of the board, and a designated space for vegetables before the guide with slots;~~

~~the rotary knives mounted on the grooves in the board for linear travel;~~

~~the grooves on the board and the slots in the guide forming a distinctive path for travel of the~~

30 ~~rotary knives;~~

~~the guide with slots for stopping the vegetable sliding and to clear the cut pieces between the rotary knives in novel manner;~~

~~the knife handles projecting at the front beyond the fulcrum up to the knife edge to prevent cut pieces from traveling with the rotary knives;~~

## 13. ( Withdrawn )

The multi knife cutting device of claim 11 comprising:

- the cutting means having six straight knives with fulcrum at one end and independent handles at the other end;
- the base cum guide member further comprising a rectangular base with two vertical supports and an end stop mounted on it, on either side of a guide with slots which is fitted close to one edge of the board top surface;
- the two vertical supports connecting the six knives through fulcrum bolt and spacers, with the knives in the starting vertical position partly in the slots of the guide with slots, arising from the close location of supports to the guide with slots, to give positive support to the knives right from the beginning of the cutting stroke;
- the fulcrum bolt giving pivot action to the knives;
- the top surface of the guide with slots acting as the vegetable location, the closeness to the knife fulcrum reducing the load arm and increasing mechanical advantage, the raised portion at the end of the guide with slots stopping vegetable sliding;
- the slots in the guide with slots permitting the knives to travel past the cut pieces for a smooth cut and come to rest on the end stop, without the knife edges touching the board;
- the flexibility resulting from independent knife handles in selecting the number of knives depending on the cutting loads, achieving smooth cuts;

## 14. ( Currently amended )

The Multi knife cutting device of claim 11 with inclined cutting action, comprising :

- the cutting means having six straight knives with fulcrum at one end and at the other end the handles connected in a manner to facilitate combination of the outer four knives as one unit and the middle two knives as another unit ;
- the base cum guide further comprising seven rectangular guides of sheet structure, two base angles one on either side of the guides, spacers to create gap between the guides to form slots, an end stop between the angles below the knife handle joint for the knife travel, all connected together with screws to form a frame type structure ;
- the fulcrum screw with washers to connect the six knives directly to the base cum guide after locating them in the guide slots ,giving a pivot action to the knives, the knives resting on the end stop before the knife edges touch the slot bottom, stopping edge damage .

## 15. ( New )

The multi knife cutting device, inclined cutting action of claim 14 further comprising ;  
 a vegetable enclosure formed by a rectangular cutout in the base cum guide structure adjacent to  
 5 the knife fulcrum, the location of the enclosure reducing the lever arm and the vertical wall of  
 the enclosure preventing vegetable sliding ;  
 the slots formed by the guides of the base cum guide extending below the vegetable platform,  
 enabling the knives to go past the vegetable cut pieces for a clean cut;  
 the guides on either side of the slots in which the knives are located, supporting the knives on  
 10 the sides beyond the vegetable enclosure through out the cutting stroke for a clean cut;  
 the combination of knife handles into two units, the outer four as one and the inner two as  
 another, giving the flexibility to use two, four or six knives at a time for cutting depending on  
 the type of vegetable, to achieve smooth cuts;  
 the base cum guide having multiple functions like supporting knives and vegetables, solidly  
 15 guiding the knives through out the cutting stroke, preventing knife bending in the process,  
 allowing the knives to go past the vegetables to free the cut pieces from between the knives.

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Marked Version of Claim number 14. Date Aug 14 / Sept 8, 2004.

14. ( Currently amended )

- The Multi knife cutting device of claim 11 titled "Multi knife cutting device, inclined action",
- 5 comprising :
- the cutting means having six straight knives with fulcrum at one end and at the other end the handles connected in a manner to facilitate combination of the outer four knives as one unit and the middle two knives as another unit ;
- 10 the base cum guide further comprising seven rectangular guides of sheet structure, two base angles one on either side of the guides, spacers to create gap between the guides to form slots, an end stop between the angles below the knife handle joint for the knife travel, all connected together with screws to form a frame type structure ;
- the fulcrum screw with washers to connect the six knives directly to the base cum guide after locating them in the guide slots in the base cum guide, giving a pivot action to the knives, the
- 15 knives resting on the end stop before the knife edges touch the slot bottom, stopping edge damage ; ~~the direct mounting without knife frame making the device compact and more functional ;~~
- ~~the base cum guide further containing a rectangular vegetable enclosure formed by a rectangular recess in the guides, adjacent to the knife fulcrum , minimizing the load arm and increasing the~~
- 20 ~~mechanical advantage, the vertical supports of the enclosure preventing vegetable sliding ;~~
- ~~the slots in the guide frame which extend below the vegetable platform, enabling the knives to go past the cut pieces for a clean cut ;~~
- ~~the guides on either side of the slots fully supporting the knives throughout the cutting stroke for a smooth cut ;~~
- 25 ~~the capability to use two, four or six knives at a time depending on the size and type of vegetable resulting in smooth cuts without over loading.~~

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